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Fox, Zaugg compete in Mr. Ole Miss runoff election

JOHN TOULOUPIIS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Tucker Fox and Chancellor Zaugg are the only two choices on the ballot today for the runoff for Mr. Ole Miss. Polls opened at 7 a.m.

A crowded field of five was reduced to two, as Terrence Johnson with 18.76 percent of the vote, Cody Letchworth with 18.01 percent of the vote and Brady Ruffin with 12.31

percent of the vote fell short of Chancellor Zaugg's 20.76 percent and Tucker Fox's 29.13 percent.

Yesterday, Fox and Zaugg spent one final day campaigning on Business Row, each making a last case for why he should be Mr. Ole Miss.

Fox spent his first two years at Ole Miss trying to walk on to the Ole Miss golf team. After it didn't work out, he applied for Ole Miss Ambassadors, which led to his position as an orien-

tation leader.

"I never thought I would do it. I got dragged to the entrance meeting by one of my friends," Fox said. "I just really found a niche in the way (of) serving Ole Miss. I got more out of the stuff than most of the kids that come."

Zaugg said he had a different experience when he was on campus for the first time.

"I had no idea what I was do-



PHOTOS BY: DEVNA BOSE

Tucker Fox (LEFT) and Chancellor Zaugg (RIGHT) will face off in a runoff election Thursday. Votes can be made on your myOleMiss account.

SEE **RUNOFF** PAGE 3

Meet the man behind the most beautiful campus in America



PHOTO BY: XINYI SONG

Jeff McManus is the director of Landscape Services at Ole Miss, contributing to the many awards the campus has received for its beauty.

JOHN TOULOUPIIS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Jeff McManus knows plants and people.

As director of Landscape Services, McManus manages the landscaping for the university's main campus, airport and golf course.

Former Ole Miss Chancellor Robert Khayat brought McManus from the palm trees and sandy beaches of Miami to the towering pines and grassy hills of Oxford.

"Chancellor Khayat was really gearing up the campus to become one of the nation's prettiest campuses," McManus said.

"You knew he had a passion for how Ole Miss felt, the experience on campus, and the looks were a big part of that."

Raised in the small town of Douglasville, Georgia, McManus almost never got involved in the landscaping industry. At Auburn University, McManus originally planned on pursuing a career in marketing before he failed a course.

McManus switched to horticulture, the study of plants, thanks to a professor who inspired his love for nature. His emphasis was on ornamental horticulture, which focuses on the growing, arranging and tending of decorative trees,

plants and flowers.

"One professor, Dr. Harry Ponder, knew all the plants. I was amazed by how much he knew and how he talked in detail about how to care for certain plants," McManus said. "After weeks in the class, even though he knew all the plant names, the thing that stood out the most to me was he knew my name and every student's name in the class."

To McManus, Ponder modeled what leadership and success look like.

"He knew us and wanted us to be successful," McManus

SEE **MCMANUS** PAGE 4

Students, Title IX office respond to recent policy changes

TAYLOR VANCE
STAFF WRITER

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced a formal rescinding of Obama-era guidelines for Title IX action on college campuses last week.

Title IX is a federal law that addresses sexual discrimination on colleges and universities. All schools are required to follow it if they receive any funding from the federal government. DeVos claims the current guidelines are biased against the accused and fail to guarantee them due process under the law.

The guideline DeVos is repealing is the "Dear Colleague" letter written by the Obama administration in 2011. She claims it has gone too far and gives colleges too much power in sexual assault cases.

DeVos released an interim question-and-answer memo detailing how schools and universities should respond to cases until the new guidelines are implemented.

Ole Miss Title IX Coordinator Honey Ussery said the changes and the memo will not change much for the current Title IX policies and processes on campus.

"It does not prohibit the policies we have in place;

therefore, our department will continue its practices," she said.

The memo states colleges must have a clear standard of proof in cases.

One such case was reported this week on Ole Miss' campus. Monday night, the University Police Department received a report of sexual assault at Brown Hall. This is the fourth sexual assault reported this year, after eight reported assaults in 2015.

Some universities, such as the University of Colorado Boulder and the University of California, have already issued statements saying they plan to keep their current sexual assault policies, regardless of the new guidelines.

University administration has not released a statement on the issue, but Ussery said she does not agree with DeVos' claim that the accused are treated unfairly.

"The university's policies provide equitable treatment to both parties using the previous guidance," she said. "Each student has a right to an adviser throughout the process. Documents are provided to each party at the same time. Both sides can present witnesses and have an opportunity to sub-

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DEBATING NFL ANTHEM PROTESTS

‘It’s an American’s moral duty to stand for the national anthem’

WRIGHT RICKETTS
GUEST COLUMNIST

It has been nearly one year since NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick made headlines by refusing to stand during the national anthem at a 49ers preseason game.

Citing mass oppression of African-Americans and institutional racism throughout the police system as the reasons for his protest, Kaepernick began a movement that would lead many other NFL athletes to follow suit.

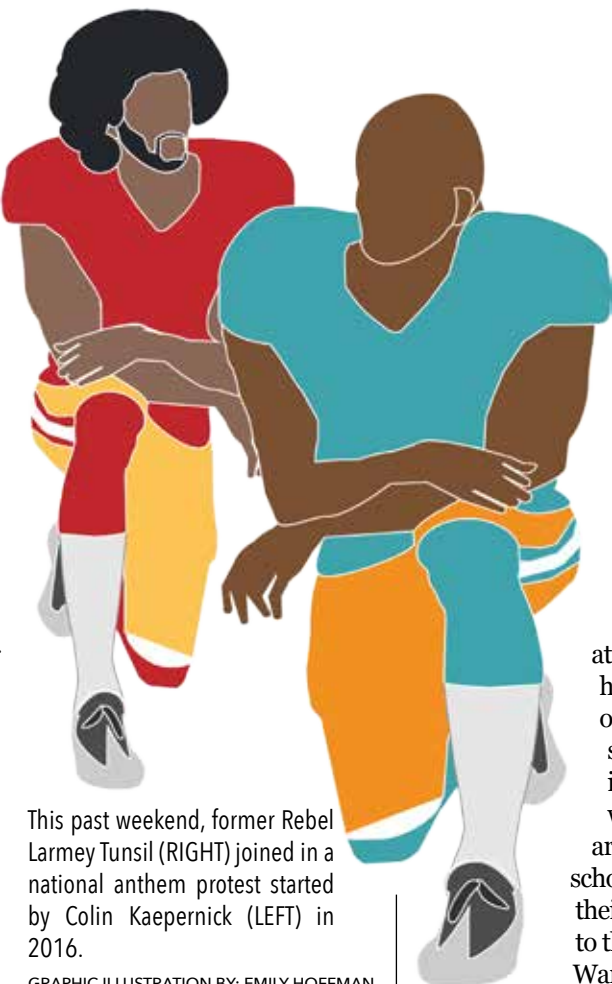
Kaepernick’s protest immediately enraged Americans across the country, who considered the move disrespectful to the thousands of men and women who have served our country since its inception. The controversy reached a boiling point this past weekend, when President Trump boldly shamed the protests, declaring the act “disrespectful” while calling on the players to stand and “respect our flag.”

Now, all American citizens are guaranteed the right of freedom of expression under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

However, just because something is legal does not mean it is just. Our flag and national anthem are symbolic of the values that make the United States exceptional. These material artifacts represent the freedom, liberty and equality all Americans are promised.

Hundreds of thousands of American soldiers have died protecting these values. To many, the flag and anthem serve as reminders of these sacrifices, and it is an established tradition to be reverent and respectful during these ceremonies.

It is an absolute disgrace that these NFL players, most of them multi-millionaires who live privileged and presti-



This past weekend, former Rebel Larmey Tunsil (RIGHT) joined in a national anthem protest started by Colin Kaepernick (LEFT) in 2016.

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY: EMILY HOFFMAN

gious lifestyles, chose such a sensitive and meaningful moment to parade their political agenda.

Can you imagine how Pat Tillman, an NFL player who left the league in 2002 to enlist in the Army and gave his life defending the United States abroad, would react to his peers’ utter disrespect for his sacrifice?

A public protest would be much more effective if it were done in a way that is not grossly disrespectful to millions of Americans.

Is the U.S. perfect? No. Will it ever be perfect? Unfortunately, no.

However, despite all the United States’ shortcomings, the flag is a reminder of how fortunate we are to live freely in this country. Out of respect and gratitude for our fellow countrymen and the American principles we all hold so dear, Americans have a moral duty to stand during the national anthem and respect our great flag.

Wright Ricketts is a junior banking and finance major from Memphis.

‘Players kneel for justice, not disrespect’

BILLY SCHUERMAN
STAFF WRITER

In the landmark case Tinker v. Des Moines, students at an Iowa high school organized a silent protest in which they wore black armbands to school to show their opposition to the Vietnam War and the injustice that was apparent.

When the principal found out about the students’ plan, he threatened to suspend anyone who showed up to school wearing one of the armbands. During the students’ suspension, parents sued the school, and in a 7-2 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that rights are not surrendered at the doors of the school.

According to the First Amendment, “Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech ... or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

Recently, in the NFL, players have been kneeling during the national anthem to symbolize the injustice that has taken place time and time again against African-Americans.

In one of the most notable acts, the Seattle Seahawks skipped the entire anthem, saying, “We will not stand for the injustice that has plagued people of color in this country. Out of love for our country and in honor of the sacrifices made on our behalf, we unite to oppose those that would deny our most basic freedoms.”

Of course, this all began last

season, when Colin Kaepernick, a former quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, took the first knee.

“I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color,” he said in an interview with NFL Media.

When Kaepernick began this protest more than a year ago, he pledged to donate \$1 million to help oppressed communities. He has donated to various charities, like the Lower East Side Girls club and J. Cole’s Dreamville Foundation. All his efforts and donations are detailed on his website.

Kaepernick, the Seahawks and every single player who has taken a knee in solidarity have had experience with or seen de facto racism. Taking a knee is simply the way these players have decided to protest it, much like the Iowa students’ armbands.

Part of the reason the armbands were given the OK by the Supreme Court, besides right to political speech being at the heart of the First Amendment, was that it did not substantially disrupt the educational process. And it is fair to say that taking a knee prior to the start of a game is not disruptive to the game.

These players have just as much a right to kneel during the national anthem as anyone else does to stand. And for those who argue that kneeling is disrespects the flag, take a look at the U.S. Flag Code, as the rules have come to be called.

While there is no mention of kneeling or standing at its attention, the Flag Code does have rules on some of the ways flags should be used that are so often seen. One such rule is that “The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose, nor embroidered on cushions or handkerchiefs, printed on paper napkins or boxes, nor used as any portion of a costume.”

Just remember that the next time you see your friend in an American flag shirt, he is disrespecting the flag far more than any NFL player who exercises his First Amendment right by kneeling.

These protests are deep-seated and full of a purpose: to call attention to social injustice.

Billy Schuerman is a freshman journalism major from Houston.

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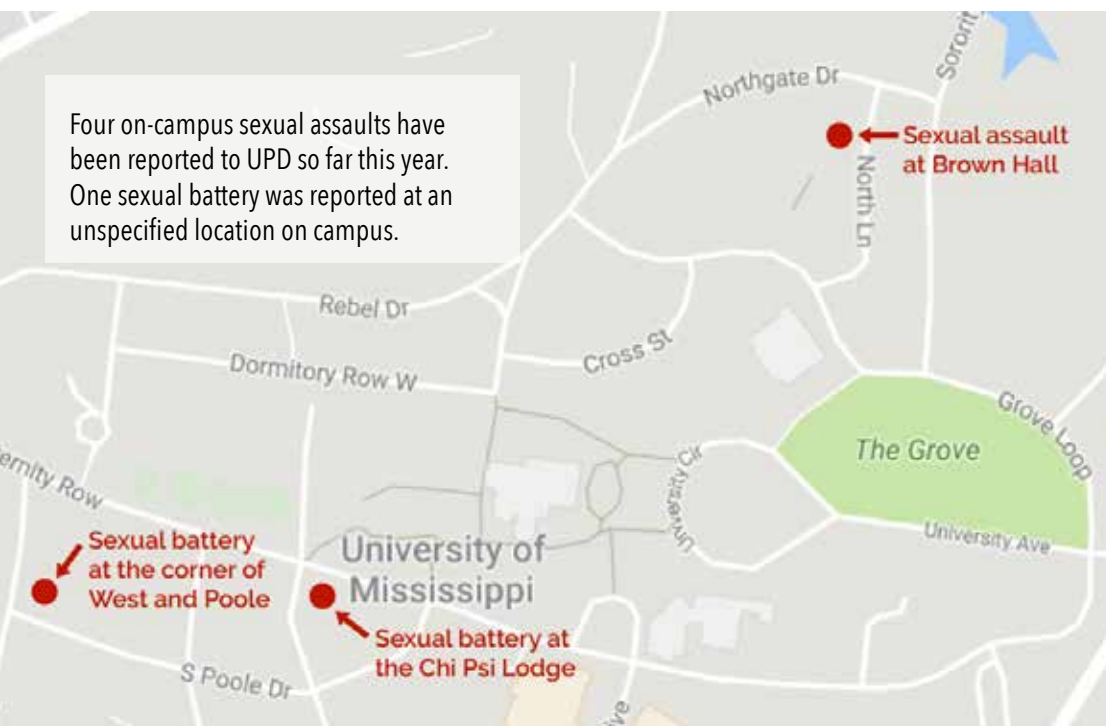
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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.

Four on-campus sexual assaults have been reported to UPD so far this year. One sexual battery was reported at an unspecified location on campus.



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY: EMILY HOFFMAN

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mit questions at the hearing.

Ussery said the department will continue to offer counseling and academic accommodations to both parties involved.

Representatives of student organization Rebels Against Sexual Assault said the group does not stand with DeVos' changes.

"(The changes) are horrible and ridiculously slanted against the survivors for no reason," Jake Thrasher, president of RASA, said. "When Betsy DeVos was listening to people about Title IX, she listened to groups who are called men's rights, but it's not about men's rights."

Thrasher said rescinding the "Dear Colleague" letter is taking a step back.

"Before we had the 2011 'Dear Colleague' letter, universities would extend the investigation period for so long that survivors would basically give up," he said. "The 'Dear Colleague' letter restricted the amount of time universities could take

to resolve the cases."

Thrasher also said the changes would allow universities to spend more time on cases, potentially sweeping things under the rug.

Other students have voiced similar concerns. Some said they feel the changes were a step in the wrong direction.

"Changes in Title IX should not have taken place. Studies have shown that less than 8 percent of the claims of assault are false, which means that over 92 percent of people that build the courage to come forth are being honest," junior business major Dominic Jackson said. "When you make it harder to convict those that do these hideous crimes, people will no longer express their hurt and, in turn, leave individuals, both male and female, with lifelong scars."

However, some said they think the changes would protect innocent people who have been accused



COURTESY: OLE MISS COMMUNICATIONS
Honey Ussery

of sexual assault. Candice Jackson, head of the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights and a sexual assault survivor herself, said she believes some investigations have gone "terribly awry."

The department currently has almost 500 open sexual assault cases. Each takes around 700 days to complete.

The Department of Education said it plans to continue to speak to "survivors, campus administrators, parents, students and experts" about final changes to the law.

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ing. I just put one foot in front of the other," Zaugg said. "But I couldn't help having this feeling when I'm at this place everything is going to be alright. I knew I was in the right place for me."

For the pair, it wasn't until after having conversations with close friends over the summer that they realized running for Mr. Ole Miss was something they each wanted to do.

"Honestly, it is so humbling to see how far we've come," Zaugg said. "The reason I'm here right now is because of my team and my support, not because of me."

"It was very tough for me to ask for people's support. It seemed selfish," Fox said. "It was unbelievable to see people put in the work to help make this happen."

Campaigning was something both candidates said they never had experienced before.

"I just want to know what's going on in their minds when they see this goofy kid from Memphis handing out stickers on Business Row," Zaugg said. "My team and I just wanted to have the most fun out there, and I think that shows and people bought into it."

Fox tried to spend at least two hours at his sign every day.

"It's crazy to think someone I've never met before or spoken to had a vested interest in what we were trying to do," he said. "People you don't even know are supporting you."

Zaugg said his campaign was built around the theme of investing in people.

"A lot of times, people in college can be pretty surface-level.

I want to have real relationships with people," he said. "I think that can be hard to find in life, but that's what I try to pursue in my life. I love bringing people together."

Fox's campaign focused on the Ole Miss family, he said.

"I would rather see this campaign fall flat on its face and people be encouraged by the Ole Miss family and what we're saying than us win and no one be changed or encouraged at all," Fox said.

Both candidates expressed their gratitude toward everyone involved in their campaigns and strongly encouraged everyone to vote in the runoff tomorrow.

"A lot of times, Mr. Ole Miss has the connotation that it's the most involved or who has the best resume. That's not what this campaign is about. This isn't about the person that has done the most," Fox said. "A lot of things I've been involved in the past couple years have been organic. Everything has just fallen into place. Everything I've been plugged in to on campus has helped me build relationships with everyone on campus."

"There's a lot of great candidates out there, and they had some great campaigns," Zaugg said. "Mr. Ole Miss should not be a checklist but should be something done out of love and with the right intentions, and that's what I'm trying to do."

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. through students' myOleMiss accounts, and the results will be announced at 8:30 p.m. outside the Lyceum. The vote on the potential mascot change is open until 7 p.m. Friday on the ASB's Orgsync site.

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MCMANUS

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said. Ponder helped prepare students for careers in horticulture.

McManus' first order of business on Ole Miss' campus started with his team. McManus built trust and worked to build relationships with employees. Today, he oversees a staff of 31 and manages a \$2 million operating budget.

Denise Hill, the current superintendent of Landscaping Services, first started in 2000 a couple of months before McManus was hired. Even though she was just on the landscaping crew, which helped pull the weeds and trim the flower beds, McManus still reached out to her in the beginning.

"When he first came on board, the leadership he provided was amazing. You learned how things worked, and step by step, things got a little bit better," Hill said.

The process of overhauling the campus took time and called for more outside reinforcements.

David Jumper, the current assistant director of the Ole Miss Golf Course, was hired in 2000 to manage all the grass, turf and weeds around campus a month after McManus took over. The campus was not



PHOTO BY: XINYI SONG

Jeff McManus' landscape work can be seen all around campus, including the front of Brevard Hall.

well-maintained, and weeds ran rampant.

"Jeff realized how bad the campus was. He brought me in and told me, 'It's yours,'" Jumper said.

Over time, McManus helped grow the campus into one of the nation's best.

"I don't call him a boss; I call him a leader. He's an excellent leader and mentor," Hill said. "The great thing about Jeff is he empowers people. He trains them and empowers them to do their job."

McManus feels the same way about his employees.

"We have great people. If they don't love doing this, we tell them to find something they love. Life is too short to do hard

work and not like it," McManus said. "We want people to have excitement, enthusiasm and passion."

Since 2000, McManus has seen what he likes to describe as "five national championships" for landscaping. A perennial contender on rankings for most beautiful campuses, the job done by McManus and his team has been ranked No. 1 most beautiful campus five times, the most recent by USA Today in 2016.

But to McManus, the national rankings aren't the only things that matter.

"We had a student who we worked with come back to us and say, 'Thank you for letting me work with y'all. You not only

taught me how to do this out here, but you taught me some life lessons along the way,'" McManus said. "That's a bigger win and more purposeful."

The maintenance of the campus requires a team effort.

"I love my job and what I do, but the people are amazing," Hill said. "Everyone tries to help each other out, even if it's not in their area."

The management of more than 1,000 acres starts bright and early at 6 a.m. Workers begin at daylight, picking up trash and cleaning the campus from the day before.

The grass in the Grove and the Circle is mowed once a week. Crews place pine straw, fix and repair shrub beds and

help maintain trees around campus.

"We have someone full time spray for fire ants and weeds," McManus said. "If we didn't constantly treat for ants, we'd be run over by them."

All of this is critical in maintaining the towering oaks, clean shrubs and bright flower beds.

It's not just current students who appreciate the beauty on campus; studies show prospective students are heavily influenced by campus appearance in their decision to attend a school.

"Sixty-two percent of prospective students who haven't decided whether or not they are going to come to a college campus decide in the first few minutes based on the appearance," McManus said. "The biggest factors on that survey were appearance, which includes landscaping, the way buildings looked and cleanliness."

As a result, McManus and his crew know they have a crucial role in helping recruit potential students to Ole Miss.

"I have a few minutes to connect with students through landscaping to help influence them to come here," McManus said.

McManus credits all of his team's success to one central idea.

"We want to grow the people who grow the landscapes," McManus said. "We grow great people."

THIS WEEK IN OLE MISS SPORTS

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Art show depicts Oxford queer community’s identity

DEVNA BOSE
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Last year, co-creators of OutOxford Jonathan Kent Adams and Blake Summers, in collaboration with the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies and the Powerhouse, came up with the idea of an art show that celebrated the local LGBTQ community. This past month, that idea came to fruition in the form of the Big Gay Art Show.

The first Big Gay Art Show is up and running for the month of September, boasting more than 50 pieces, and the reception was held at the Powerhouse from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday as part of the Oxford Art Crawl. The exhibit will be up until the end of the month.

This will be the first fine art exhibit that OutOxford, which Summers and Adams started to bring more opportunities for LGBTQ exposure in Oxford, has sponsored.

A long-time artist, Ad-



Stephen Hectorne and Blake Summers admire the art displayed at the Big Gay Art Show, put on by the Powerhouse.

ams reached out to some younger, lesser-known LGBTQ artists, including Deja Samuel and Jake Thrasher, among others, from the Oxford-University community to show their work in the exhibit. The result is a combination of 10

artists’ varied work. The exhibit features everything from ceramics to photography, and each piece ties together the show by sharing the overarching theme of the exhibit — the queer person’s experience in the South.

“I wanted to tell a story that was serious, playful and honest. I think that is what viewers saw at the Big Gay Art Show,” Adams said. “I believe in the power of art to make individuals think and look outside of their own perspective.

I believe there are several moments in this show where that happens.”

Around 300 people visited the reception Tuesday night, taking part in the welcoming atmosphere.



PHOTO BY: DEVNA BOSE

SEE LGBTQ ART PAGE 6



Kappa Kappa Gamma Welcomes Our 2017 Pledge Class



Susannah Abernathy*
Madysen Acey
Evelyn Angle*
Rebecca Atkinson
Erin Autenreith*
Elisabeth Bailey*
Savannah Bailey
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Isabel Bleicken
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Caroline Whetzel
Sydney Wingfield
Clare Wojciechowski
Jennifer Wolfe*
Hayden Woods*
Mary Grace Wylie*

*legacy

LGBTQ ART

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“The art show was easily a success,” Summers said. “We had more than our expected demographic come out and support the art crawl in its entirety. It was great exposure for us. We had it all — art, spoken poetry, food, a drag queen, installations and a gin-themed beverage.”

The exhibit challenged viewers from all walks of life, exposing them to a version of Oxford’s collective queer identity.

“Talking about art opens the air. You get to find ways to relate about life experiences and sometimes a person you disagree with,” Summers said. “Pain is pain. Triumphs are joyful. Emotional communication is what makes art breathe, and we hoped our curation was a bread crumb trail to

understanding.” Senior chemistry major Jake Thrasher, who is featuring two of his pieces in the exhibit, emphasized the important of a queer art show in the small community of Oxford.

“I think art exhibits that show diversity, especially in small towns, have a large impact on the perception of the town to insiders and outsiders,” he said.

Adams has a “sassy” self portrait piece in the exhibit that summarizes his thoughts toward our modern political environment and how that has already shaped the LGBTQ identity of the South.

“It’s a self portrait with a flag in it, and the flag is a part of me as well as the painting. I feel like with the new kind of political environment with Trump being in the White House, there is a movement of people who are anti-LGBT,” he said. “Yes, I might not like



PHOTO BY: DEVNA BOSE

Tanya Gesmondi observes the art displayed at the Big Gay Art Show on Tuesday night.

what’s going on, but this place is just as much mine as it is yours. You can take rights away, but you can’t take my identity away from me. That painting is me claiming that.”

The exhibit also documents important moments in LGBTQ history in Oxford, like the first gay pride parade two years ago.

“Blake’s boots that he put rhinestones on for pride, that’s a part of the exhibit. I love how if you go to a museum, art can show history, and we tried to do that, too,” he said. “That piece is about that moment in Oxford.”

The duo hopes that people from all walks of life

will leave the exhibit with changed perspectives.

“I left the event full of joy. Seeing the indiscriminate community come together over these last two events has really improved my personal morale,” Summers said. “The South is becoming alright. Southerns have a beautiful tradition of love and a foundation of hospitality. I see it every day. I think Mississippi can grow to be a place for everyone. We just have to keep using our paints and glue guns and respect each other until that day comes.”

In the political climate of the nation and the community, it is more important than ever to Adams to

bring the local community together using his passion for art.

“I think it’s cool that queer people can have a space to show people what they have and the community in return shows support. The coolest part for me, as an artist, was getting to showcase other artists’ work that I believe have the potential to grow and have powerful messages in the current political climate,” Adams said. “If you’re not a part of the LGBT community, I hope that you are challenged in some way or relate to it in some way because that’s what art does — it connects us.”

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52 Nabbed
54 Human robot
59 A Guthrie

60 J in JFK
62 Too bright
63 Short play
64 Ibsen woman
65 Bad move
66 Takes a good look
67 Increased
68 Arrange, as hair

DOWN

1 Knock off
2 Lahore
3 Kimono closers
4 Art colony town
5 Deer's rack
6 Goddess of dawn
7 Dusting powder
8 Blackens
9 Kindness
10 Tan slacks
11 Gothic romance
12 Sultans' cousins
13 Leads to the altar
21 That, in Madrid
23 Eating place
25 Hindu god
27 Telegraph syllables
28 Green-egg layers
29 Slugger — Ruth
30 Mild interjections

34 Nonsense!
35 Sports venue
36 Berra of baseball
37 Trevi Fountain site
38 Top player
40 Snubbing
41 Cambridge univ.
43 Distinctive air
44 Larry, Curly and Moe
45 Jet jockeys
47 Sharp tool
48 Cartoon pig

49 Stan's partner
50 Soprano counterpart
52 Carton
53 Catastrophic
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56 Conceal
57 Singer Billy —
58 Austen heroine
61 Playing marble

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HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

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NOVICE

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3	2	5	6	8	9	7	4	1
4	6	1	7	5	8	9	3	2
2	8	3	9	6	1	4	7	5
6	5	7	4	2	3	1	6	8

Rebels heal injuries ahead of bout with Alabama

BILLY SCHUERMAN
STAFF WRITER

It's all hands on deck as the Rebels prepare for their trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Junior center Sean Rawlings, who was injured early in the game against Cal two weeks ago, and a number of other contributors are set to return for Saturday's game against the Crimson Tide. "He's played enough where I feel confident that he could go play on Saturday without taking that many reps," head coach Matt Luke said. "I think he is way further along than I thought he would be. He will have a chance to play, but he will have to do so without taking that many reps so we can give that ankle as much rest as possible."

With players like Rawlings, who contributes significantly to Ole Miss' offensive efficacy, caution is key. Luke made it clear he would not rush Rawlings back to the lineup.

"If he is out there hobbling

around and can't push off of it, we probably won't play him," Luke said. "If he is about 75-80 percent, then he can play if needed, and then if he is out there and just looks great, then we will play him more than that."

But Rawlings isn't the only starter slated for a big return. Receiver A.J. Brown, who led the SEC in receiving yards through week three, is nursing a knee injury that came in the first quarter against Cal. According to the Ole Miss coaching staff, Brown could contribute big minutes against Alabama.

"He has looked fine," Luke said. "We have held him out some and tried to limit his pitch count a little bit just to try and get him as much rest as possible but I think he will be ready to go."

During a point after attempt against Cal, kicker Gary Wunderlich pulled his hamstring. Freshman backup kicker Luke Logan replaced the veteran, eventually shanking a field goal attempt.

"(Wunderlich) kicked two or three times," Luke said. "We limited his kicks, but he did still kick. Logan is still the backup plan."

Off the edge, defensive end Victor Evans continues to heal and could join Marquis Haynes in the battle against the Crimson Tide's fearsome line.

"He looked great today," Luke said. "I am very excited about where he is at. He had a little knee problem, but overall, I am just very pleased with Victor."

Though the Rebels suffered multiple injuries against Cal, perhaps their biggest obstacle was the crowd noise. Cal's stadium is uniquely intimate; close seating allows sound to carry onto the field much more easily.

"We have done a lot of crowd noise work these last two weeks," Luke said. "I think it bothered us a little more than I had anticipated going to Cal, so we worked really hard on the crowd noise and the communication."

Luke applauded the Rebels' improved defensive efforts



PHOTO BY: TAYLAR TEEL

Matt Luke walks the sideline during game against South Alabama earlier this season.

while displaying a healthy sense of cautious optimism. Though plenty of room for improvement remains, Luke recognizes the potential in his defensive unit.

"I think you want improvement everywhere," Luke said. "I just want to see us fill our gaps and make those guys bounce

and run laterally. Everyone has a gap responsibility, and if we can make those running backs bounce and run laterally, that would be a win for us."

The Rebels enter the belly of the beast Saturday night to square off with the Crimson Tide in Tuscaloosa. Kickoff is set for 8 p.m.

COLUMN

FBI opens investigation of basketball programs

JACK BITTERMAN
STAFF WRITER

Drug dealers, terrorists and investigations into political wrongdoings — those are the things that come to mind when one thinks of the FBI's typical jurisdiction, not the NCAA.

Most any good FBI television show features a federal agent in a cheap black suit with knockoff aviators, just waiting for the right time to drop a terrible one-liner about how crime doesn't pay. Well, apparently it does if you are a high school athlete getting recruited illicitly.

Earlier this week, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York announced federal corruption charges against four NCAA assistant basketball coaches who are responsible for instances of illegal recruiting within collegiate basketball. This is different from the the average, run-of-the-mill NCAA investigation, which Ole Miss fans know all about. This time, the federal government is busting people. The three-year FBI probe focused on coaches being paid tens of thousands of dollars to steer NBA-bound players toward sports agents, financial advisers and apparel companies.

Sifting through this information, there are several things to consider. First is establishing the difference between the two separate charges.

The first charge is that four

coaches at Arizona, Auburn, Oklahoma State and the University of Southern California took money to steer collegiate athletes toward agents or financial advisers. The assistants named in the indictment are Lamont Evans (Oklahoma State), Emanuel Richardson (Arizona), Chuck Person (Auburn) and Tony Bland (USC). Each of the four coaches faces a maximum sentence of 80 years in prison.

The second charge is that Adidas executive James Gatto was caught paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to players to get them to go to certain colleges and eventually sign contracts with a company that is not named.

While the public does not know who the company is, a single Google search will pull up Market Watch saying Adidas' shares fell after one of its executives, Gatto, was arrested in an FBI corruption probe.

Though this behavior should come as no huge surprise to any fan that follows the game, this is a huge issue for NCAA hoops.

In response, Mark Emmert, president of the NCAA, released a statement saying, "The nature of the charges brought by the federal government are deeply disturbing. We have no tolerance whatsoever for this alleged behavior. Coaches hold a unique position of trust with student-athletes and their families, and these bribery allegations, if true, suggest an extraordi-



nary and despicable breach of that trust. We learned of these charges this morning and of course will support the ongoing criminal federal investigation."

Really, NCAA? No tolerance for that behavior? Well, it is against your defined set of rules. So that makes sense.

Will the NCAA support the ongoing criminal investigation? One would hope so.

But the real question is about how far this is going to reach.

What happens when the Adidas executive decides he doesn't want to eat cafeteria food and shower communally for the next 30 years? He doesn't want to go to jail, so how many names will he turn over? Where will those names lead?

Already hit by the aftermath, established Louisville basketball head coach Rick Pitino and the school's athletic director, Tom Jurich, have been placed on indefinite unpaid leave, which is presumed to be the end of their time in Kentucky. Who's next?

The NCAA exists to keep players and coaches in check, so it is not a good look when

the FBI has had to come in and uncover a scandal with the potential to bring down the entirety of one of its sports. And as it stands today, the FBI plans to continue deeper in to its investigation as more information is presented.

Keep an eye on the situation;

it's going to rock the sport, the nation and college athletics.

Cue "Sympathy for the Devil" by the Rolling Stones playing in the background of a montage of arrests.

What if I told you that crime does pay? Now that's a 30 for 30 I'd watch.

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Rebels and Crimson Tide share plenty of history

SAM FARRIS
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

Following a stunning loss to the Cal Golden Bears, the Ole Miss football team has already started preparing for the No. 1 Alabama Crimson Tide. Historically, the Rebels have fared well against highly ranked opponents. In 1977, Ole Miss upset Notre Dame, the eventual national champions, and it more recently claimed back-to-back victories in 2014 and 2015 over a top-five Alabama program.

On Sept. 17, 1977, with 48,000 in attendance (a record then) at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium in Jackson, the Rebels matched up against the nine-time national champion Notre Dame Fighting Irish, who were ranked third in the country by the Associated Press.

James Storey was a junior running back for the Rebels in 1977 and was part of just the third recruiting class that included African-American players. Though Notre Dame's football legacy is well-documented, Storey said his team was scarcely aware at the time.

"We got ready for them just like any other game," he said. "Back then, we didn't know about all their players, coaches and titles. We just knew it was game day."

The Rebels came into the game as heavy underdogs, having been thrashed by Alabama the previous week. Still, the overwhelming atmosphere did little to

faze the players.

"If you look back, (Ole Miss) always seem(s) to play better in big games," Storey said. "It doesn't matter what kind of year we're having. We always get up for the big ones."

And get up they did, as the Rebels held the Irish to just a single touchdown, and Storey scored two touchdowns. The score to seal the game came in the fourth quarter on a 10-yard pass from quarterback Tim Ellis, a play not originally designed for Storey.

"The clock was running, so we just broke the huddle real quick. One of the guys came on, and I was supposed to shift, but I was already in my stance and was not moving," he said with a chuckle. "We snapped the ball and it came to me, another 'right place, right time' moment."

Kelly Guin of Tupelo has been a lifelong Ole Miss fan, and he said he remembers the excitement from that night in 1977 as an 11-year-old boy who idolized players like Storey.

"Since the game was in Jackson, it was one of the few home games we didn't see that year, but we listened to the whole thing on the radio," Guin said. "I just remember we couldn't believe we had won. It was a down year, so it felt like we pulled off a miracle."

The giant-slaying Rebels would strike again 37 years later in 2014, when the national title favorite Crimson Tide of Alabama rolled into Oxford. Projected to win by two scores, the Tide instead fell 23-17. Ole Miss thwarted the Tide's attempt at revenge the fol-



PHOTO BY: CAMERON BROOKS

Jalen Julius and Tony Conner celebrate after a hit applied to Alabama wide receiver Gehrig Dieter last season.

lowing season in Tuscaloosa, winning a shootout, 43-37.

One of the heroes from the 2014 and 2015 games was current senior place-kicker Gary Wunderlich, who, between the two games, knocked down four field goals and six extra points with a 100 percent success rate. Unlike Storey, Wunderlich said it was impossible to ignore the pressure heading into the big games.

"We came here to play teams like Alabama and games against big-time opponents," Wunderlich said. "I don't think anyone can say those games are the same. We get (extra) excited for a challenge."

When asked about his team's chances at slaying Goliath once again during next week's matchup with

No. 1 Alabama, the Ole Miss kicker said that if he had not seen it done before, he would not think it possible.

"To think we upset Bama not once but twice is crazy," he said. "Looking back, though, and seeing that we actually did it gives me the confidence that we can do it again."

There are some historical similarities that line up in the Rebs' favor. Both the win against Notre Dame in '77 and the win against Alabama on the road in '15 were the third games of the season. In 1977, the team was under the direction of a young head coach, Ken Cooper, once an assistant under the legendary coach Johnny Vaught, much like Matt Luke, who has ascended to the vacated Freeze throne.

"Football is a funny game these days," Storey said. "Anybody can beat anybody if they play hard and as a team. We did it then, and these boys can do it now."

Storey echoed the same "see it to believe it" confidence Wunderlich expressed in the Rebels, looking into the future but using the past as a reference.

Despite wins and losses, big games or cupcakes, both of these program greats say they owe much to Ole Miss football and could never forget their big game experiences.

"If it hadn't been for Ole Miss giving me a chance, I never would have made it anywhere," Storey said. "I was blessed with the opportunity to play in those big games and play football in general, but I was especially blessed in being able to get an education."

Wunderlich said the bond of Ole Miss football transcends the game and is something he will always cherish.

"We are a brotherhood, and everything we do, we do it together," Wunderlich said. "I look forward to being a part of the Ole Miss football family long after my days here are over."

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